

REMARKS

Claims 29, 30, 32-39, 41-43 and 48 are currently pending in the application. Claims 29, 30, 32, 35, 37, 41 and 48 are independent claims. By this amendment, claims 29, 30, 32, 35, 37, 41 and 48 are amended to overcome the rejections. No new subject matter has been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all pending rejections in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 29, 30, 32-39, 41-43 and 48 contain allowable subject matter.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Rejections

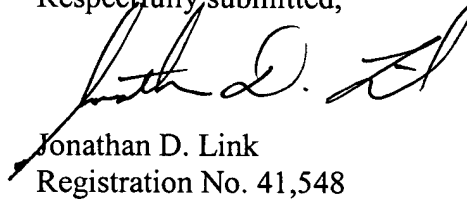
Claims 27, 31, 40 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 4,850,686 issued to Morimoto, *et al.* ("Morimoto"). Claims 28 and 45-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,461,513 issued to Maruyama, *et al.* ("Maruyama") in view of Morimoto. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In the Amendment, claims 29, 30, 32, 35, 37, 41 and 48 have been amended into independent form and incorporate any claims from which they depend. As the Examiner has indicated that these claims contain allowable subject matter, Applicants submit that these claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully request that the claims be passed to allowance.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the rejections have been overcome, and that the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue, and to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicant hereby makes a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to **Deposit Account No. 23-1951** (McGuireWoods).

Respectfully submitted,



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